

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD
MARCH 26, 1995
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS**

A Special Meeting of the Illinois Gaming Board was held on March 26, 1995 at the Plaza One Hotel, Rock Island, Illinois pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.

The following Board Members were present: J. Thomas Johnson, Chairman; and Members William B. Browder, Gayl S. Pyatt, J. William Roberts and Robert F. Vickrey.

In addition, Administrator Michael A. Belletire, representatives of the press Deputy Administrators Joseph C. Haughey and Thomas Swoik; and representatives of the press and the general public were in attendance.

The meeting was called to give the licensee and the community the opportunity to give testimony in conjunction with relicensing action regarding the Rock Island Boatworks/Casino Rock Island.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Bill Renk, Director of Promotions gave an overview of the key points to be presented.

Frank Pedulla, President and Chief Operating Officer spoke on the history of the Casino Rock Island, their business philosophy and summarized the current status of Casino Rock Island.

Mark Schweibert, Mayor of Rock Island, spoke on the history of cooperation between the City of Rock Island and the licensee. The City worked with Jumers to create the Rock Island Boatworks; to stimulate economic development and to help rebuild the downtown area called "the district". Tax revenues from the casino and the cooperation of the licensee have helped expand businesses and service enterprises in "the district". Mayor Schweibert pointed out that the crime rate is down from 1993. He finished his statement with words of support for the relicensure of the Casino Rock Island.

Bill Renk discussed the Jumers marketing approach. He pointed out that Casino Rock Island has brought in 400,000 out of state passengers per year due to 1 million dollars in advertising, 40% of which is out of State. Mr. Renk emphasized that Jumers and Casino Rock Island support the district financially to help the community grow together.

Several community members spoke on the positive partnership between Jumers, the casino and the district.

Jeff Zahnle, Human Resources Director of the licensee spoke on employee statistics, minority hiring and employment statistics. In 1992 50% of new hires came from the ranks of the unemployed. Many, he

said previously held minimum wage jobs or were on public assistance. Today 90% of the current staff are local residents and the payroll for 1995 is projected to be \$7 million dollars.

Quentin Davis, Economic Development Consultant for Jumer Hotels & Casinos, Inc., spoke on the economic impact over the last three years, spin-off jobs and development from the Casino Rock Island, as well as, the revenue impact on the State and local communities.

Senator Denny Jacobs of the 36th District and John Pauley, President of the Arts and Entertainment District gave statements of support.

Dan Carmody, Executive Director, Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation spoke on the positive development impact the Casino Rock Island has had on the city of Rock Island and the entire community.

Frank Pedulla returned to stress the commitment to State and local community and to statutory compliance. He requested that the Casino Rock Island's license be renewed at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Several citizens gave testimony in favor of the relicensure of the Casino Rock Island.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Members of the Board and staff then took a walking tour of the Casino Rock Island, "the district" and visited the Iowa-licensed President riverboat.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Offord
Secretary of the Board